



ARTSWISE

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Fall 2005

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"L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION" RAISES NATIONAL PROFILE

The one-hour "**L.A. Holiday Celebration**" music and dance television special, aired nationally on PBS, is receiving a significant boost from the network this year. The special, created from the best segments of the six-hour show performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center December 24, 2004 and televised locally by KCET, was selected by PBS for a hard feed to its stations as part of a package of holiday programming. Previously, the national show was made available to stations on an optional basis and was scheduled at each station's discretion. The show is scheduled to air **December 15 at 10 p.m.** on most stations throughout the nation, including Los Angeles' **KCET**.

The broadcast, hosted by comedian **Elayne Boosler**, features performances by eleven Los Angeles-based performing groups including **America Chinese Dance Association, ARC Handbell Choir, Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet, Inspirational Voices of Free!, Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church, Mariachi Divas, Mariachi Sol de Mexico, Soldiers on Soul Patrol, Universal Dance Designs Kennedy Tap Company, Vox Femina** and **Yuval Ron Ensemble**. Seven of the groups catapulted into the national spotlight were first-timers on the Music Center show last year.

The Arts Commission scours Los Angeles County throughout the year for talent for the six-hour show. More than 40 groups - totaling about 1,200 artists - perform in this year's edition, the **46th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 24 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**. The celebration is a gift to the people of the County from the Board of Supervisors so admission and parking under the Music Center is FREE. For those who

can't make it downtown, the show is broadcast live on KCET.

Historically the program has been conceived as three, two-hour shows starting with youth, moving to older/intermediate groups and closing with prime time professional groups. The 2005 celebration is designed as six one-hour shows with a little bit of everything in each hour.

The celebration is a vibrant reflection of the County's cultural mosaic. Musical ensembles, choirs and dance companies perform works from American, Mexican, Jewish, African-American, Irish, Brazilian, French, Peruvian, Filipino, Chinese, Korean, South Indian and Persian traditions. Entertainment on the Music Center Plaza from 2:00 p.m. (the doors open at 2:30) to 6:00 p.m. promises to be circus-meets-holiday inspired street theater with a kid-friendly vibe.

The Arts Commission executive produces both the national one-hour television special and six-hour live show at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. For complete information on both shows, visit www.holidaycelebration.org

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ARTS EDUCATION PERFORMANCE INDEX REPORT ASSESSES STATE OF ARTS EDUCATION IN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At a meeting celebrating the progress of the County's Arts for All arts education initiative, the Arts Commission, on behalf of the Arts for All Executive Committee, released the Arts Education Performance Indicators (AEPI) report on the status of arts education infrastructure in Los Angeles County public school districts. The report, based on self-reported data from superintendents of 60 of the County's 81 districts, evaluates the districts according to five critical factors for a sequential, comprehensive K-12 arts education program: board adopted policy, implementation plan with timeline, district level arts coordinator, 5% district budget allocation, and at least a 400:1 ratio of students to credentialed arts teachers.

The AEPI reveals:

- . 36% of districts report having an **arts education policy**
- . 35% report a board-adopted **arts education plan** or indicated that they are developing one
- . 12% report having an **arts coordinator**
- . 15% report dedicating **5% of their general budget** to arts education
- . 10% report having at least a **ratio of 400:1** of students to credentialed arts teachers

Arts for All, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2002, is a 10-year initiative to restore comprehensive K-12, sequential arts education to all County public school districts. Starting in 2003-04, the Arts for All Executive Committee has invited selected districts to receive multi-year technical assistance through the Arts for All Pooled Fund to help meet the critical success factors. Of the 11 districts receiving assistance in the first two years, eight - **Beverly Hills, Compton, Culver City, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Norwalk-La Mirada, Pasadena, Rosemead and Santa Monica-Malibu** - have adopted policies and plans within the last 18 months. Plans will go before the boards of the other three - **Burbank, Castaic and Hacienda La Puente** - this fall. Five more districts - **ABC, Alhambra, Inglewood, Little Lake City and Palos Verdes** - began receiving technical assistance this fall.

The complete AEPI report is available at <http://lacountyarts.co.la.ca.us/images/AEPI2005.pdf>

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ARTWORK COMMISSIONED BY COUNTY ADDS PLAYFUL LAYER TO CHILDCARE CENTER

On November 10, the Van Nuys Civic Child Development Center, the first County-built child care center, was dedicated in a ceremony hosted by Third District County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and attended by state, county and city officials. The state-of-the-art facility will enable the County to provide affordable childcare to its employees.

The event also marked the unveiling of *Tall Tails* by artist Jacqueline Dreager, a whimsical array of flora and fauna executed in painted steel cut-outs and installed on the exterior façade of the center. The artwork was made possible by a \$35,000 civic art demonstration project funded by the Third Supervisorial District and administered for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission by art consultant Jessica Cusick.

"This was an opportunity for the art element to say this building is about kids," said Laura Zucker, executive director of the county Arts Commission. "We wanted something that would engage the kids." Dreager's piece was inspired by a horizontal band that wraps around the building. She animated the band with bold, intensely colored animal elements: butterfly, dragonfly, lizard, flying reptile, squid, octopus, lemur, prehistoric shark, dinosaur and sea serpent intertwine with plant life.

For more information about *Tall Tails* and artist Jacqueline Dreager, please visit <http://www.lacountyarts.org/cavannuyscivicchilddevcenter.htm>.

Tall Tails is one of three civic art demonstration projects that pre-date the adoption by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in December 2004 of the first formal Civic Art Policy in the County's history. Effective July 1, 2005, one percent of design and construction costs on new County capital projects is allocated to provide or finance the civic art components of these projects. The Arts Commission has primary responsibility for oversight of the Civic Art Program.

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OLDEST AND NEWEST ARTS COMMISSION GRANTEES HONORED

In October, at a reception on the terrace of the 8th floor of the County Hall of Administration affording a spectacular view of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and the mountains beyond, the 266 recipients of the Arts Commission's Organizational Grants Program Awards for 2005-06 were honored for their achievements. Representatives of the oldest and the newest organizations to receive OGP grants were singled out for special recognition.

Grantees providing arts services to the Los Angeles region the longest and the years of their founding include

Southwest Museum/Autry National Center (1907)
Pasadena Playhouse State Theatre of California (1917)
Los Angeles Philharmonic (1919)
Burbank Chorale (1920)
Gallery 825/Los Angeles Arts Association (1925)
Pasadena Symphony Association (1928)
Palos Verdes Art Center (1931)
Long Beach Symphony Association (1933)
Friends of the Los Angeles Bach Festival (1934)
PEN Center USA West (1943)
Los Angeles Music and Art School (1945)

Santa Monica Symphony Association (1945)
Santa Monica Theatre Guild (1946)
Beach Cities Symphony (1949)
Guild Opera (1949)
Colburn School of Performing Arts (1950)
Long Beach Museum of Art Foundation (1950)
ONE Institute, International Gay and Lesbian Archives (1952)
Young Musicians Foundation (1955).

Those organizations receiving grants for the first time this year are

Antelope Valley Ballet
Creative Playground
Electric Lodge
Foundation for World Arts
Friends of the Levitt Pavillion
Halcyon Center for Child Studies, Inc.
Hands for Hope
Hollywood Entertainment Museum
Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles
Keith Glassman Dance & Performance
Khmer Arts Academy
Kings and Clowns, Inc.
Latino Theater Company
Los Angeles Story Works
Mad Scene Theatre Company
Parson's Nose Productions
Shakespeare at Play
Torrance Cultural Center Foundation
The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company
Workshop 360.

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ENSEMBLE THEATRE COLLECTIVE TAKES UP RESIDENCE AT [INSIDE] THE FORD

The Brothers Karamazov by Anthony Clarvoe, adapted from the novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky, is running Thursdays through Sundays at the Ford's 87-seat indoor theatre, [Inside] the Ford, through January 15. Presented by the **Circle X Theatre Co.** and directed by John Langa, the play is the first production to be staged by the new theatre collective resident at the Ford. The Ensemble Theatre Collective includes, in addition to Circle X, **About Productions, Watts Village Theater Company, Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble** and **Zoo District**.

The collective, known as **ETC@ITF** for short, was originally to have moved into the Ford in January 2005, but a massive rainstorm and resulting damage to the [Inside] theatre delayed their residence until this fall. The collective's aim is to create a home where artistically diverse theatre ensembles develop and present theatrical events, share resources, exchange artistic processes, and cultivate a local and national appreciation for Los Angeles-based ensemble theatre.

Tickets for *The Brothers Karamazov* are available by calling 213 804-5491 or visiting www.CircleXTheatre.org. Other productions by the collective's members are scheduled at [Inside] the Ford through April.

. *L.A. Real*, a one-woman theatre work written and directed by Theresa Chavez and performed by

Rose Portillo, explores the myths and nostalgia that affect our perceptions of California. Presented by About Productions in January 2006.

. *Black Words on White Pages*, presented by Watts Village Theater Company in February 2006, is a reading series providing a raw look into the minds of today's most political and socially active playwrights of color including Alice Tuan, Lynn Manning and many more.

. *The Last Days of Tarquinz* takes audiences to a legendary city of ornate palaces and shimmering lagoons that harbors a secret. Presented by Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble in March 2006.

. Zoo District stages its adaptation of Eugene Ionesco's *The Submission*, directed by Kristi Webber, in April 2006.

For more information about the collective's public events, visit <http://www.fordamphitheatre.org/en/performance/Theatre.asp>.

ETC@ITF is a collaboration of the member companies and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, with support from the Flintridge Foundation.

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ArtsWise is the quarterly e-newsletter of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Commission fosters excellence, diversity, vitality, understanding and accessibility of the arts in Los Angeles County. The Commission provides leadership in cultural services for the County, including information and resources for the community, artists, educators, arts organizations and municipalities. The Commission offices are located at 374 Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Complete Arts Commission information is available at www.lacountyarts.org. The Commission does not trade, sell or rent its e-mail list to anyone.